



James E. McGreevey
Governor

The Commissioner's Report

NJ Dept. of Community Affairs



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

Winter/Spring 2004

Vol. 1 No. 4

Greetings from Governor McGreevey & Commissioner Levin

During the State of the State Address, we laid out our vision to 'Build a Better New Jersey' and protect the health of our children and families. We have worked hard to make New Jersey a national leader on many fronts.

We fought polluters to protect our air quality. We stood up to telemarketers to protect our families' time. We faced the gun lobby to make NJ the first state with a childproof handgun law. We took on developers to enact the toughest water regulations in the country. We created jobs. And our students are leading the nation in reading and math scores. We are working together to make government work better for our citizens and to create a plan for New Jersey's future - a plan that will keep property taxes down, curb uncontrolled growth and improve schools throughout our State.

DCA helps Build a Better New Jersey by serving local governments, protecting the environment, providing housing, advocating for women, Latinos and other minorities, and protecting our citizens to improve the quality of life for all residents. In fact, in 2003 alone, DCA provided more than \$1billion in grants, loans, financing, and federal dollars to municipalities, community groups, organizations and individuals throughout the state.

This edition reflects on some of 2003's accomplishments and sets the stage for 2004. We are proud and excited to continue to work with towns, counties, organizations and citizens to Build a Better New Jersey and to serve New Jersey's people, places and progress.

With all good wishes,

James E. McGreevey
James E. McGreevey
Governor

Susan Bass Levin
Susan Bass Levin
DCA Commissioner

Governor's State of the State Address Advances DCA's Daily Agenda



Governor McGreevey, at his State of the State Address on Jan. 13, 2004, outlined initiatives that include DCA's Division on Women, Division of Housing and Community Resources and Division of Codes and Standards.

During his Jan. 13, 2004 State of the State address, New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey laid out his vision to "Build a Better New Jersey." Two particular initiatives from the Governor's address will affect the day-to-day activity of three DCA divisions - the Division on Women (DOW), the Division of Housing and Community Resources and the Division of Codes and Standards.

For women, the Governor called upon the Legislature to require insurance companies to cover mammograms for women under 40 with a family history of breast cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in women between the ages 15 and 40, and an estimated 7,400 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year alone. Hitting closer to home, New Jersey has the highest breast cancer mortality rate in the country. Recognizing these staggering realities, DCA Commissioner Levin and the Division on Women (DOW) will continue to support Governor McGreevey's vision and advocate for women to ensure that New Jersey's women receive the highest quality healthcare available.

For children, Governor McGreevey is working to strengthen regulations that deal with environmental toxins, including and especially lead-based paint. First, to help parents protect their children

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



people. places. progress.

inside

- 2 DCA's 2003 Accomplishments
- 3 Building a Better NJ

Continued on Page 2

State of the State

Address...Continued from Page 1

from the moment they come home, Governor McGreevey proposed giving every new mother a lead detection kit before she leaves the hospital, in an effort to ensure that all homes are free of lead-based paint hazards.

On Jan. 20, the Governor signed the Lead Hazard Control Assistance Act, a comprehensive program designed to identify lead hazards in residential housing, especially rental housing. Under the Act, DCA's Division of Housing and Community Resources will create the Emergency Lead Poisoning Relocation Fund, which in its first year will appropriate \$2 million from the "Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund." This fund will provide emergency relocation assistance to move lead-poisoned children out of harm's way.

The Act also establishes the Lead Hazard Control Assistance Fund within DCA to provide low-interest loans to housing unit owners to complete lead-based paint hazard control work. Additional grants will be made for single-family, two-family and multiple dwellings homeowners with no more than four separate dwelling units. Also for multiple dwellings, DCA's Division of Codes and Standards will complete inspections for lead-based paint hazards over and above regular inspections cited in the state's "Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law."

Finally, DCA will create and maintain a Lead-Safe Housing Registry to track the state's progress of lead hazard control programs, as well as to identify lead-safe housing in multiple-dwelling units. The Registry will categorize housing as either lead free, lead-abated, lead-hazard controlled or lead-free interior.

These are just a few of Governor McGreevey's visions that rely on DCA's support. Working closely with other state agencies on these and other initiatives put forth during the State of the State address, we truly are working to Build a Better New Jersey.

Accomplishing More in 2003

Last year at DCA proved successful for New Jersey's people, places and progress. From meeting our housing challenges to investing in Smart Growth, and from advocating for women and Hispanics to working closely with municipal governments, DCA has provided more than \$1 billion in grants, loans, financing, and federal dollars to municipalities, community groups, organizations and individuals throughout the state.

Here are just some of 2003's highlights.

Meeting housing challenges.

From the complete overhaul of the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) to providing more than 12,000 affordable housing units since last fall, DCA and HMFA are working to improve the quality of life for New Jersey's citizens by meeting the state's housing challenges.



In Runnemede (Camden County), during a Smart Future Planning Grant announcement, Commissioner Levin speaks about what Smart Growth planning is doing for towns and counties all across New Jersey. In 2003, DCA awarded more than \$2.5 million in Smart Future Planning Grants.

Creating more livable communities through Smart Growth.

DCA is active in coordinating with the many state agencies involved in Smart Growth, with the ultimate goal of stopping uncontrolled growth and focusing on successful planning and redevelopment. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's new Master Plan and DCA's Smart Future and regional planning initiatives are just a few of the many accomplishments that help DCA create more livable communities.

Revitalizing New Jersey's cities, older suburbs and rural villages.

DCA and HMFA's programs, including the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program and Close to Home New Jersey, are working toward revitalizing our communities - regardless of their geographic location and surroundings - and returning them to their former prominence as the economic centers of our state.

Protecting the health and safety of our residents.

In 2003, DCA's Division of Codes and Standards and the Division of Fire Safety continued to work in concert to increase the safety of New Jersey's residents. This year specifically, we saw the creation of the Fire Service and Safety Task Force and the Nightclub and Restaurant Task Force. We also joined the Operation Save-A-Life Program for smoke detector distribution and partnered with the New Jersey Amusement Association (NJAA) for the "Ready to Ride" brochure, highlighting carnival and amusement ride safety tips. Whether at home, work or play, DCA is working to protect the health and safety of our residents.

Connecting our citizens and communities.

It is our goal at DCA to respond to the needs of New Jersey's 566 communities and provide the vital programs, services and training necessary to improve the lives of our residents. Some of the ways we met this initiative in 2003 were through Governor McGreevey's Roundtables for Women, the online GovConnect program and the re-launching of the Regional Efficiency Development Incentive Program. By being in contact everyday, whether in person or online, DCA is connecting with our citizens and communities.

As you can see, DCA has accomplished a great deal this past year. To view the complete DCA 2003 Accomplishments piece, visit www.nj.gov/dca/publications/2003accomplishments.shtml.

Coverage of the 88th Annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference

Visitors to the 88th Annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM) Conference had the opportunity to take a stroll down "DCA Street," which was home to a variety of information about DCA and everyone one of its divisions and affiliates' programs.

Commissioner Levin and Governor McGreevey attended this year's NJLM conference to meet with local officials and provide updates on hot topics, including property tax reform, the state's Smart Growth initiative and the Council on Affordable Housing.



Commissioner Levin speaks during one of the Conference's popular breakout sessions.



Governor McGreevey, during a speech about property tax reform, is applauded by (l. to r.) Clifton R. Lacy, M.D., Health and Senior Services Commissioner, Brigadier General Glenn K. Rieth, New Jersey's Adjutant General, (not visible) Ida Castro, Department of Personnel Commissioner, and J. Christian Bollwage, City of Elizabeth Mayor and NJLM President.

DCA Street on display at the 88th Annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference.



Building a Better New Jersey



Property taxes are one of the most important issues currently facing New Jersey's families. In keeping his promise to begin an honest discussion about property taxes and to start exploring reforms that target the root of the problem, Governor McGreevey (center) conducts a roundtable discussion on December 8 with homeowners, PTA members and local officials in Lyndhurst. The Governor will continue to meet with residents and communities in an ongoing effort to help solve the problem of rising property taxes for citizens across the state and Build a Better New Jersey.

For more information, visit www.buildabetternj.org.

DCA Publications Available Online

DCA offers the tools that towns, counties, organizations other constituents need for anything from redevelopment and community improvements to training and program management. We have an entire library of publications that provide the information you need, including:

- The Brownfields Site Mart and Brownfields Redevelopment Resource Kit
- The Redevelopment Handbook and Smart Growth Action Kit
- DCA's Program Book and Housing Program book
- And publications about housing, community resources, fire safety, women and Hispanic services and more.

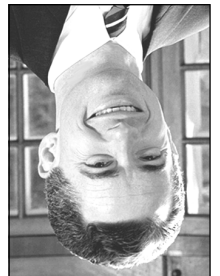
Visit the DCA publications Web page at www.nj.gov/dca/publications to find the information you need for your community programs and projects.



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner



James E. McGreevey
Governor



www.nj.gov/dca

(609) 292-6420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

PO Box 800

101 South Broad St.

Office of the Commissioner



US MAIL
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 21